

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 341  
By West

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of James Larry "Doby"  
Sullivan of Hermitage.

WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly were saddened to learn of the death last December of James Larry "Doby" Sullivan, known affectionately to both members and staff of the General Assembly as "Larry the Phone Man"; and

WHEREAS, Larry was thoroughly grounded in the complexities of the communications wiring of the legislative complex and was amazingly adept at accomplishing necessary telephone relocations which accompanied the massive office reshuffling that occurs with each new General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The unfailingly cheerful and always unflappable Mr. Sullivan was a favorite with staff members in the legislative offices and was always ready to bestow an apt nickname, exchange quips, or engage in some playful prank or practical joke; and

WHEREAS, Larry was not only "our phone man," but also took care of a number of downtown Nashville office telephone systems, including those of the Department of Human Services in the Citizens Plaza Building; he worked for Southeastern Telecom, Inc. for several years following his retirement from Western Electric; and

WHEREAS, In his life away from work, Larry Sullivan was an enthusiastic Titans supporter and an avid fisherman who developed close friendships with his fishing buddies; in his

youth, he was an avid baseball player and received the nickname "Doby" from a neighbor for the American League baseball player, manager, and Baseball Hall of Fame member, Larry Doby; and

WHEREAS, Larry's interest in baseball followed him to the military, where he played on a military team and traveled from base to base for games; his official military task, however, was the maintenance of top secret communications in Europe; and

WHEREAS, Larry's military duties were in large part not known by his family members; even Generals did not have clearance to interfere with his work, and armed personnel accompanied the crew when they took classified materials to an incinerator following completion of a job; and

WHEREAS, Larry was a loving and caring family man, born May 10, 1943, the son of Catherine and the late Robert Sullivan; in addition to his mother, he is survived by daughters Michelle Key and Melissa Sullivan, brothers Robert "Oot" Louis Sullivan and Thomas Allen Sullivan, sisters Suzanne Brown and Cheryl Ann Pafford, and grandson, Hunter Key; and

WHEREAS, The sight of Larry Sullivan walking down the hall or entering an office with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face was guaranteed to transform the outlook of stressed-out or irritable office workers as they anticipated his lighthearted comments delivered in slow, Middle Tennessee tones; and

WHEREAS, Another person like Larry Sullivan, who so delighted in his family, friends and co-workers, and who so easily and readily connected with all those whom he encountered, will not soon walk among us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING; That we pause to remember and celebrate the bountiful life of James Larry "Doby" Sullivan, joining with his family and many friends in recalling, with affection, his love of life, his delight in interacting with people, and his unfailingly cheerful and optimistic outlook.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of Larry Sullivan with this last clause omitted from such copy.